

September 15, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Ms. Mary L. Cottrell
Secretary
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
One South Station
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: Participation in D.T.E. 03-60 Proceeding

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

We represent Z-Tel Communications, Inc. ("Z-Tel") with respect to the referenced proceeding, and write to advise that Z-Tel intends to participate actively in both D.T.R. 03-59 and D.T.R. 03-60. Z-Tel was the first national local telephone service provider in the United States and offers service to residential and business customers in most states, including Massachusetts.

Z-Tel provides service to residential and business customers in Massachusetts through the Unbundled Network Element-Platform (UNE-P). The Department's proceedings, ordered by the FCC's recently released *Triennial Review Order*, will determine Z-Tel's continued access to certain unbundled network elements in Massachusetts. Specifically, D.T.E. 03-59 will investigate the applicability in Massachusetts of the FCC's finding that switching for enterprise market customers served by high-capacity loops should no longer be unbundled, and will ultimately determine whether the Department should petition the FCC for a waiver of its finding. D.T.E. 03-60 will inquire into the ability of competing carriers such as Z-Tel to continue to offer local service to mass market customers in Massachusetts without access to Verizon New England, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts' switching facilities.

Because each proceeding will address questions that go the core of Z-Tel's ability to continue servicing its customers in Massachusetts, Z-Tel intends to participate actively in both cases.

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Please contact me if you have any questions or if you need any additional information. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

COUCH WHITE, LLP

Lawrence G. Malone

LGM/sgb

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